



Cornwall Newsletter

Town of Cornwall

Volume 9, Issue 1

Bits and Pieces of (hopefully) Useful Information

The Select Board has not yet set the 2012—2013 tax rate, but initial calculations indicate that the Municipal rate will be going up by 6 cents this year. This is directly related to the \$100,000 appropriation for the North Bingham Street Fire Station renovations. This increase in the tax rate is a good example of how the Capital Fund helps to keep the tax rate on an even keel. As you recall over the years before the Capital Fund, when we would make an equipment purchase the tax rate would go up considerably and then perhaps drop back until the next piece of equipment was needed. With the Capital Fund, over the last 3 years the rate has essentially stayed exactly the same. The education rates have also been distributed and the

Homestead rate is increasing by about 2 cents from 1.5144 to 1.5347, the Non-residential rate will drop ever so slightly over last year, from 1.4102 to 1.4076.

You can expect to see your tax bill around September 7, 2012. The first payment will be due on November 1, 2012 and the second payment is due on May 1, 2013.

Another change for next year having to do with taxes is that you will be required to file a Homestead Declaration each year again when you file your state income taxes. The legislature had done away with that requirement for a few years, but it will be returning next year.

I am sure most of you are aware that this is a big election year. FYI, the State Primary will be held on

Tuesday, August 28, 2012.

The polls will be open from 7AM—7PM. The General Election will be held on November 6, 2012 and the polls will once again be open from 7AM—7PM. Absentee balloting will be available for both of these elections. Absentee ballots will be available for the State Primary starting on July 10, 2012.

The last day to obtain an absentee ballot for the Primary is Monday, August 27, 2012. The office will be open that day from 1:00PM—5:00PM. If you wish to vote in the Primary, you must be registered to vote by August 22, 2012. Call the Town Clerk's office if you are not sure whether you are registered or not. More information about the General Election will be forthcoming in the fall newsletter.

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Special points of interest:

- *New Summer Reading at the Library*
- *Conservation Commission plants seedlings*
- *Cornwall Historical Society meets to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War*
- *Lemon Fair Insect Board looking for Cornwall Board Member*

Free Passes Available at the Town Hall

The Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation and the Vermont Division For Historic Preservation have once again offered free passes to Vermont State Parks and Vermont State

Historic Sites. The passes are made available through your local library and may be signed out on a first come, first served basis. The passes are for day use only, no overnight camping. Gen-

erally speaking the passes are signed out for a day at a time, but that can be negotiated with the Librarian at the Cornwall Free Public Library.

Cornwall Conservation Commission News

They are growing!

In early May, more than 20 volunteers (of all ages) turned out to plant 350 dogwood, elderberry, and willow seedlings across a State-owned agricultural field in the Cornwall Swamp. When they mature, these plants will slow storm water runoff and offer a protected corridor for animals to move from one side of the field to the other. The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources provided the seedlings and the project was coordinated by the Cornwall Conservation Commission.

Enthusiasm was very high and the task took only a few hours to complete. Thanks to everyone who lent a hand.

Pictures courtesy of Valerie Calzini.



The youngest worker!



The Swamp Work Crew!



Planting Seedlings.

Green Up Vermont 2012 Final Report

We had another successful Green Up Day in Cornwall, weighing in with .47 ton of solid waste; 13 tires; 1 cubic yard of scrap metal; and 1 appliance. As a county we picked up 18.34 tons of solid waste—it's kind of disgusting but also amazing! Thank you again to everyone who participated before, on, or after May 5th. There are so many of you who contribute your time and help keep this wonderful Vermont tradition alive.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 4th 2013 to help Green Up Cornwall. See you at the truck!

Submitted by your Green Up Day Coordinator Dena Greenman.

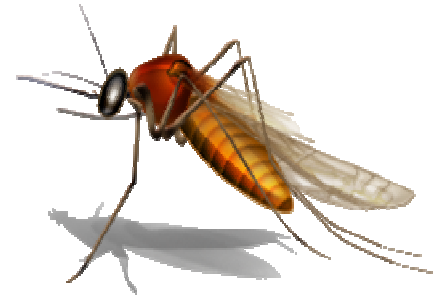
For more Green Up information see the state's Green Up Day website: www.greenupvermont.com



Lemon Fair Insect Control District Board In Need Of Cornwall Board Member

The Lemon Fair Insect Control District is looking for a Board of Supervisors candidate, starting immediately, for its six-person board (three from Cornwall and three from Bridport). This is a two-year term. The board essentially supervises the mosquito larvicide program, financed primarily by State reimbursement and town contributions. The program is based on an aerially applied, non-

chemical product. In addition to a two-hour monthly board meeting, the job involves active oversight of some aspect of the program itself. Present board members are: Tom Baskett (758-2055), Dinah Bain and Rusty Sherman from Bridport and Lew Castle (462-3640) and Chris Chapline (462-3760) from Cornwall. Most of the work is between April and September. Please call for information.



Cornwall Planning Commission News

The CPC has spent much of the past eight months integrating the Fall 2011 Survey results into an update of the Town Plan. At this point, a rough draft has been created and is being reviewed by the CPC. Additional rewrites and editing are required before we have a draft, which we can release. We anticipate that we will have a final draft ready in September, which will be used to inform the Selectboard and for public hearings,

which will likely be held in October. After the public hearings, additional changes may be required before we can send the final version to the Selectboard for their hearing and adoption process. Our goal is completion of the entire project by the end of this year.

Fortunately, there has not been a lot of subdivision activity this year and this has afforded us the time

we needed to work on the Plan update. The Addison County Regional Planning Commission has also spent many hours assisting us. We are looking forward to finishing our work on the Plan and presenting it to the Town for discussion and, ultimately, adoption.

Jim Bolton

Tracy Himmel Isham

Cornwall Select Board Update

Town Meeting went well and the weather turned unusually good, two auspicious events to get the year on the right track. Of course some said, "We'll pay later." ... and we did as you will read in the Road Commissioner's report. We had a flurry of calls regarding dirt road shoulder maintenance. Proper maintenance is essential to maintaining the integrity of dirt roads. In particular the shoulders need to be kept free of invasive grass, weeds and roots lest the underlying structure be weakened and erosion follow. That necessary work is weather-dependent and can be messy for a few days but beats having to re-build road sections.

We have welcomed Abi Sessions to the Board and have a calendar including continuation of joint meetings with other town boards/commissions. You are invited to attend our meetings, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7PM at Town Hall. (June-August it's just once a month on the 1st Tuesday.) Bruce Hiland and Judy Watts continue as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

Our appeal for help on Capital Budget Planning yielded two highly qualified individuals, Magna Dodge and Mary Conlon. Both have experience in the world of numbers and we much appreciate their support. As elsewhere noted we have an opening to fill on the Lemon Fair Insect Control District.

The joint purchase of an excavator with Shoreham has been consummated and now is a model for similar efforts. Any other possibilities for "dollar wise" collaboration will be welcomed and if you have suggestions please offer them up.

An assessment of our town buildings' needs suggests that one property, Schoolhouse #5 (2nd building down S. Bingham St. on west side, #114) actually belongs to the School District. We've so advised our school board. Options for the Lavalley property are being explored with continued hopes that the building or at least its materials can find suitable use in a different location.

Cornwall Lister Information

Each year Cornwall citizens receive their new tax bills in September. When the reality of yet higher property taxes hits them, property owners call Sue Johnson, the Town Treasurer, to learn what the process is for lowering one's taxes. But by then it is too late to lower the assessment on your property, upon which the taxes are based, for the current billing period. Changes to property assessments must be made by the listers by April 1, although property owners still have a grievance period in May and early June. During the grievance period, a property owner may ask the listers to review their property value.

How does a property owner get a change made to his/her property appraisal?

- First, request a property record card from Sue or the listers. That card will show basic information about your property—the location and size of your house and acreage, the number of rooms and bathrooms, number of fireplaces, outbuildings, etc.

Check to see that the information on the card is correct. Have you made changes to your home, especially any that may reduce the value of your home (taken out a bathroom, torn down a barn, etc.)?

If the acreage is wrong, provide documentation from previous deeds of the correct acreage.

Contact the listers in writing to make any corrections.

- If a property owner has applied for a zoning permit, the listers will contact property owners about doing a reappraisal based on the amount of work that has been completed as of April 1.

Property owners will receive a Change of Appraisal Notice no later than June 4, 2013. A property owner who is not satisfied with the new appraisal may “grieve” in writing no later than the close of the grievance hearings, the date of which will be in the Change of Appraisal Notice. Notice of this date will also be posted, among other places, in the town Clerk's Office, the Town Garage, and the Addison Independent.

Other property owners also have until the close of grievance hearings to dispute their appraisals. Again, such ‘grievances’ must be in writing.

- Additional information about property tax appraisals and grievances can be found at http://www.sec.state.vt.us/municipal/tax_appeal_handbook.pdf.

The Listers encourage anyone with questions to call them at 462-3386 or e-mail cornwall_listers@yahoo.com. We meet weekly, so don't be reluctant to call again if we have not responded to you within a week.

Lister Needed!!

Sue Burdick and Stephenie Pyne, the current listers, thank Paul Viko for his service as a Cornwall lister for several years. Paul recently moved into Middlebury, and so Sue and Stephenie are looking for a third lister. What do the listers do? Essentially they determine the equitable assessment of properties in the town of Cornwall. The training is provided both by the State and in-house. The position is part-time with flexible hours, mostly during the day. Applicants must be residents of Cornwall. If you are interested, please leave a message at 462-3386.

Road Commissioner's Report

So we had ourselves another significant weather event on May 29. Rain gauges on the south end of town showed 3 1/4" to 5" of rain in less than 4 hours. At least 40 crossroad culverts failed to handle the flow, not to mention many driveway culverts, and VTrans had issues on Route 30 and Route 74. A few hours later and the water settled, one 4 foot culvert on Clark Road was the only one totally washed out, closing the road. We have since been declared a disaster making us eligible for repair funding. Seems pretty lame compared to what some of our neighbors over the mountain went through last fall, and the hassles they've been through since to get funding, but we'll at least start the process of slogging through the

bureaucratic morass that is FEMA. I will take this opportunity to say that despite all the whining and complaining about the shoulder disk operations earlier this spring, that rig made a tremendous difference during this event. There were virtually no shoulder wash-outs which is what most of our neighbors dealt with. The excavator is working out well and will, dare I say, make us some money with the FEMA way of doing things.

This year's paving (which was on West Street) is all done. We'll deal with gravel on the shoulders after its cured up good. Bikers and walkers be careful.

First pass mowing is done and we'll start the second round here shortly and

peck away at that as scheduling allows. The herbicide permit notice is reprinted elsewhere in the newsletter, as the window on the first printing is closing and the cut stump treatments have not started.

Hopefully we'll get to some more ditching, so if you want some fill, call the garage number: 462-2752.

Beyond that, not much more. Equipment's holding together. Hopefully we won't have any more deluges, but don't count on it. So think about how these events affect you and yours and make some plan.

Stu

The Towns of Addison, Cornwall and Starksboro

PUBLIC NOTICE

HERBICIDE SPRAYING

The above mentioned towns have each requested from the Secretary of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets a permit to apply the following herbicides: Garlon 4 ultra (Triclopyr), Garlon 3A (Triclopyr), Krenite S (Fosamine), Escort XP (Metasulfuron), Oust Extra (Sulfometuron) and Accord (glyphosate) to control unwanted vegetation along town owned highways. Selective spray operations will start approximately June 1st. The applications will be made by certified pesticide applicators using mechanically controlled equipment and hand control methods. Residents along the right-of-way are encouraged to protect sensitive environmental areas, organic farm land and water supplies from spray. It is the resident's responsibility to notify the town of the existence of these situations adjacent to the town right-of-way. Citizens wishing to inform the town are urged to contact the contact person for their town as follows: Addison- Bryan Nolan 759-2570, Cornwall- Stu Johnson 462-2752, Starksboro- Tom Estey 453-2319

The appropriate place to contact with comments, other than the towns is the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, Agriculture Resource Management and Environmental Stewardship, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, telephone 802-828-2431. Their link Web page that would describe the town's spray permit request can be found at www.VermontAgriculture.com

Cornwall Historical Society Meets, Eats and Studies the Civil War!

The Cornwall Historical Society met on May 23, 2012 which was the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War Battle of Front Royal, Virginia. There were approximately 12 people in attendance. There was an excellent potluck supper provided by those that participated. The group talked about future meetings and what might be planned for those meetings. To that end, the next meeting will be held on the 150th anniversary of the battle at Harper's Ferry

which is September 12, 2012 at 6:00 P.M. Potluck supper to start, and then a discussion of the events that took place at Harper's Ferry. If you are interested in learning a bit more about that battle, the library has acquired several new books on Harper's Ferry, as well as other Civil War era books. Come on in and check them out, both literally and figuratively. At this meeting, the group will decide what battle

will be the next focus, undoubtedly, there will be one meeting devoted to the Battle of Gettysburg, which will be celebrating it's 150th anniversary in 2013. Ralph Shepard, former Cornwall resident has also agreed to do a talk on Civil War era weapons and ammunition. Keep an eye on the newsletters and web site (www.cornwallvt.com) for further information and future meeting dates.

Emergency Management Network

All you puzzlers... you thought I forgot, but I've just been laughing too hard. You see, there's a word-find in another newsletter, and he tells you the words you're looking for. I always try to find the words first, then compare to his list, and I subjected you to the same theory. The result? Despite my looking at this every which way I could, I still missed "unintended" words, the most amusing and provocative being, *POT*. The most appropriate: *TENT*.

So below are the words (yes, maybe *I* cheated a bit) and the locations from the March Word-Find.

Those who provided responses, intended or otherwise, will get a little something from the Emergency Management cache. Thanks for playing!

word	start - dir
1. TOC EMN	1a ↓
2. weather radio.....	1b ↓
3. pet food.....	1n ←
4. playing cards.....	1n ↙
5. blankets.....	2j ←
6. fuel.....	3c ↘
7. plan.....	7i →
8. water.....	8m ↓
9. batteries.....	9e ↑
10. flashlight.....	10c ↗
11. first aid kit.....	10c →
12. mmxii (2012).....	10n ↓
13. WVTKfm	13a →
14. medicines.....	13f ↗

1	T	W		S		D	O	O	F	T	E	P		
2	O	E	S	T	E	K	N	A	L	B	H	L		
3	C	A	F		I				G		A			
4	E	T		U	R			I		Y				
5	M	H	E	E		L		I				S		
6	N	E		N	T	L	H		N			E		
7		R			T	S		G	P	L	A	N		
8		R			A		C			I		W		
9		A		L	B	A			C	S		A		
10		D	F	I	R	S	T	A	I	D	K	I	T	M
11	P	I		D				D			C	E	M	
12		O	S				E				A		R	X
13	W	V	T	K	F	M					N			I
14											S			I
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n

Across the Ditch by Gary Margolis

Close enough to almost touch, lost in my hidden thoughts, I looked up to find you standing there not waiting camouflaged almost blending in, branch and leaf-like, a breathing skittish wind, not held by anything not you,	yet holding back from not-quite-leaving because it more than seemed you were waiting to look at me hiding in the walking air. Isn't a thought a doe about to turn a feeling into the brush-filled	woods, further back in there, where there is no place else to go? Isn't a moment all we have to lose, here where there's nothing to keep us from touching, reaching across the town-dug ditch, lying down	in a wind-blown, leaf- soaked bed? Or forgetting who we are, disappear- ing before we think of it, before the leaves are hiding in their bounding, bidden trees.
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Library Updates and Reminders

We now have electronic checkout for materials at the library so be sure to come in and get your new library card – if you haven't already. You can use your new card to access e-books and audio books from "Listen Up! Vermont". Go to Listenupvermont.org to get started!

FREE ONLINE CLASSES. ALL YOU NEED IS YOUR NEW LIBRARY CARD. Universal Class, an online continuing education program, is now available to Cornwall Library patrons at no cost! Universal Class is a new learning program available through the Vermont Department of Libraries which offers over 500 classes online. Study anything from aromatherapy to website development, medical skills and finance to GED preparation 24/7-all at your own pace. Each person is welcome to enroll in up to five courses

at one time and will have up to six months to finish each course. The courses are taught by professionals, though the courses themselves are non-credit classes. Begin exploring these courses by registering with your library barcode number on the [State of Vermont Universal Class Registration page](#).

Can't find the book you're looking for at our library? **Interlibrary loans** make it possible for us to get a book for you from another library when we don't have it ourselves. Contact Sue Johnson at 462-2775, cornwallvt@shoreham.net, or stop by Town Hall with the title and author, and we'll let you know when it arrives.

The library has **wireless access** so we provide free internet access to those of you who have laptops and devices with

wireless cards. Come in and enjoy a cup of coffee while you're here!

Books and audio books at the library are loaned for **one month** and DVDs are loaned for **one week**.

Do you have an **overdue Book/Audio Book/DVD**? Please be considerate of others and try to return materials on time, or remember to renew them. There are no fines for overdue materials, but a Good Conscience Jar is provided. We do welcome donations if conscience prompts you! All donations go directly to stock the library shelves with new releases.

AND, the Library always welcomes donations of books, audio books, and DVDs, new or used, and other materials. These items will be entered into the collection or sold as part of our annual library book sale.

New Books for Summer Reading!

New additions to the library shelves await Cornwall residents for summer reading. Come in and browse through the new popular adult fiction and non-fiction titles, young adult, young readers, children's picture books, audio books, and DVDs. **OR** look over the complete list of new books and DVDs at cornwallvt.com under the library menu item. And remember, the library is open during normal Town Office hours.

ALSO, we'd like to know what materials you're interested in seeing at the library. Tell us your thoughts about authors, topics, and genres that you would like to see the library consider for the collection. Contact Sue Johnson at 462-2775, cornwallvt@shoreham.net, or stop by Town Hall.

Do you like mysteries and thrillers? You might want to try *Deadlocked* - Charlaine Harris, *The Sins of the Father* - [Jeffrey Archer](#), *Stolen Prey* - John Sandford, *Kill Shot* - Vince Flynn, or *The Expats* - Chris Pavone. We also have new releases from James Patterson and David Baldacci. **Are you a fan of Clive Cussler?** We have his two most recent books - *The Thief* and *The Storm*. **Some other new fiction books include** *The Road to Grace* - Richard Paul Evans, *The Family Corleone* - [Ed Falco](#), *Canada* - Richard Ford, *Home* - Toni Morrison, *Bring Up the Bodies* - Hilary Mantel, *Calico Joe* - John Grisham, *A Blaze of Glory: A Novel of the Battle of Shiloh* - [Jeff Shaara](#), and *In One Person* - John Irving. See what else is new in fiction.

Is non fiction your thing? We have *The Passage of Power: The Years of Lyndon Johnson* - Robert A. Caro, *The Power of Habit* - Charles Duhigg, *Drift* - Rachel Maddow, *Wild* - Cheryl Strayed, *Full Duty: Vermonters in the Civil War* - Howard Coffin, and *Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake* - [Anna Quindlen](#) to name a few.

What about DVDs? *Dolphin Tale*, *Downton Abbey - Seasons 1 and 2*, *Moneyball*, *The Smurfs*, *Berkeley Square*, *Game of Thrones - Season 1*, *Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol*, *Hop*, *Rio*, *Midnight in Paris*, and *The Vow* are a few of the new titles added to our collection.

And let's not forget the kids! *The Fault in our Stars* - John Green, *Chomp* - Carl Hiaasen, *Penny and Her Song* - Kevin Henkes, *Seeds of Rebellion (Beyonders)* - [Brandon Mull](#), and *The Duckling Gets a Cookie!?* - Mo Willems are some of the new books for children.

We have several new audio books and young adult books too. **COME SEE WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY!**

Town of Cornwall

2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753

We're on the Web
www.cornwallvt.com

Surging the Storm by Gary Margolis

More river
than brook

More is more
not less

You can reverse
this if you have
one minute more

Water is everywhere
it's meant to be
not here

Smell the river-
sea flooding
the bridge

My culvert is
irreversible
power

You're too close
to what you have
to see creeping
and faster
than these
scudding clouds
thundering

inside
the bridge

As far as
overflowing

Isn't there only
so much
you can take

The taken-down
trees float

for awhile

Aren't you used
to a boat, a candle
burning on a leaf

The wind sets out
to see how far it can
go Storms are so

you can begin
again one rill

at a time, runneling
into a rivulet

below your house
where the brook is
rivering